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The Grizzly, November 9, 2006

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The Grizzly

Thursday, November 9, 2006

The student newspaper of Ursinus College

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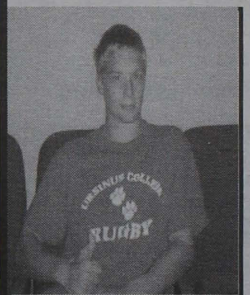
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Collegeville, Pa.

Volume 31 Issue 10

News

Philly Soft Pretzel Factory now open

DAN LAMSON

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Life in Collegeville takes twists and turns as a new pretzel shop opens down the street from the campus.

The Philly Soft Pretzel Factory, which celebrated its grand opening two weeks ago, is located at 331 E. Main St. The store sits in a small white building with green trimmings just across from Wawa and next to Renae Charles Photography.

Philly Soft Pretzel Factory is a chain of restaurants with over 60 locations in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and Ohio. The first franchise opened its doors in Mayfair, Philadelphia, Pa., in 1998.

"Our pretzels are warm and always just out of the oven, and they provide an excellent snack," an employee of the franchise said. "You may have had soft pretzels from around the city before, but there's no guarantee how fresh they are. Here, the pretzels are always fresh."

"I liked it," explained one Ursinus junior when asked about the factory. "It was cheap and good. But it seems like a lot of people don't know it's there." It is true that the prices are low by some standards. The cost of one pretzel is \$.50 and you can purchase three for \$1, making the Factory less expensive than some of their competition.

The Philly Soft Pretzel Factory advertises great deals, including 10 pretzels for \$3, 20 pretzels for \$5, 50 pretzels for \$11, and 100 pretzels for \$20. An assortment of toppings, including melted cheese, a variety of mustard cups and bottles, and cream cheese are available as well.

While many people feel that an authentic soft pretzel can only be found on a Philadelphia street corner, Philly Soft Pretzel Factory is certain to be changing their minds.

The Philly Soft Pretzel Factory is open Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturdays 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, call the Collegeville location at 610-831-8831 or visit www.phillysoftpretzelfactory.com.



Congratulations to this year's Ursinus College nominees for the Thomas J. Watson Fellowship, which provides awardees \$25,000 for independent study and travel outside the United States during the year following graduation.

Tracey Ferdinand: "Poetry of the Night: The Magical Practices and Stories of Women (Mexico, Jamaica, and Ghana)"

Markus Weise: "On your left!" Making and Maintaining Bicycle Culture in Cities (Namibia, Bangladesh, Vietnam and Tanzania)"

Katie Ringler: "The Modern-Day Saint: Following the Footsteps and Legacy of Mother Theresa (Macedonia, Ireland, India, Venezuela, Italy, and Tanzania)"

Dina Yarmus: "Identifying with Resistance: A Study of Worker Organizing and Strategic Cooperation in Latin America, Anglophone Africa and Europe."

For more information on the Watson Fellowship, visit www.watsonfellowship.org.

English for all

SALIA ZOUANDE

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Many of the workers around campus, who diligently spend their time making the bathrooms and hallways of the academic and administrative buildings and dorms pleasant for members of Ursinus College faculty, staff and students, are immigrant Latino workers. Many of these workers have immigrated to the United States in search of better livelihood and means to increase their quality of life. Many are parents who constantly encounter obstacles—in their daily lives, as well as in their working places—with respect to the English language.



With the goal of using English speakers on campus to help our workers develop fluency in a second language, members of We Care About the Nation (WeCAN), Project Pericles, and the Association of Latinos Motivated to Achieve (ALMA), with the support of the faculty and administration, have initiated an English tutoring program for the Latino workers at Ursinus. Dr. Xochitl Shuru of the Modern Languages department and Dr. Houghton Kane of the Politics department supervise this program, but students essentially run the logistics and content.

The ESL program consists of classes split up in three categories: beginners, intermediate, and advanced students. At the head of each class are student volunteers who take charge of the sessions and go over their developed lesson plans for the day. Classes are held three times a week in the basement of North Hall: Tuesdays and Thursdays from noon to 12:30 p.m. and Wednesdays from noon to 1 p.m.

In order to sustain this program, more student volunteers are necessary so that leaders can have an even more individualized language learning experience. This is a cultural experience for both parties, since lesson plans are developed in such a way that students and workers are able to exchange ideas by learning about each other's cultures. It is also a great way for Spanish majors or minors to practice their Spanish outside of the classroom. Once you establish a connection, you learn to appreciate people and be thankful for their efforts as members of our college community.

This program has only been running for two months, but has had much success with generating respect and dialogue between students and workers on campus. Many of the workers now feel at ease asking questions to students and are even correcting each other and chatting among themselves in English. The success of this program suggests great potential for continuation in the future.

For more information regarding how to volunteer to become an English tutor, please attend one of WeCAN's meetings or ask Lauren Schaeffer to add you to the mailing list by e-mailing her at laschaeffer@ursinus.edu. For more information about the different activities planned by WeCAN, please e-mail Dina Yarmus at diarymus@ursinus.edu

The Grizzly

The student newspaper of Ursinus College

Volume 31 Issue 10

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WeCAN make(s) a difference!

Worker's rights conference held at Ursinus

LAUREN SCHAEFFER

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The United Students Against Sweatshops (USAS) Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference took place at Ursinus College from Friday, Nov. 3 to Sunday, Nov. 5, 2006.

USAS is an international organization of student groups fighting for worker's rights and sweatshop-free labor conditions.

In attendance were students from Ursinus College, Swarthmore College, University of Maryland Baltimore County, Ramapo College, George Washington University, American University and Lehigh University; USAS National organizers; and a representative from the Worker's Rights Consortium. The purpose of this event was for student labor activists in the Mid-Atlantic Region to unite and discuss campaigns and strategies, participate in a solidarity action and plan future actions.

The event began with a Mexican food night on Friday and the Squadzilla concert. Students then worked out details of a JCPenney protest scheduled for the following afternoon. Saturday began with a video conference with workers from the Rising Sun factory in Kenya. These union workers had been harassed, not paid outstanding severance pay, fired for demonstrating and blacklisted. "African children are crying because of work with the needle, and when you buy the clothes you buy a curse," one of the workers said. "We plead with you to make so much pressure," he said, referring to pressure to be put on JCPenney, the Jones Apparel Group, and the Rising Sun factory.

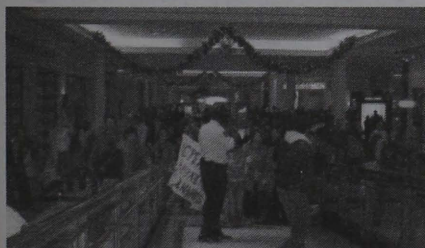
Students protest at the mall

JONATHAN KIERAN

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This past Saturday, student members of WeCAN, Ursinus College's human rights group, joined with their peers from across the mid-Atlantic region to protest in solidarity with garment industry workers in the African nation of Kenya. The protest targeted the JCPenney store at the King of Prussia mall, a location not often visited by political activists.

The protest was aimed at increasing awareness of the situation at Rising Sun, a garment factory in Athi River, Kenya. This past June, over 1,200 legally unionized workers were summarily dismissed and locked out of the factory. They were then replaced by casual workers willing to produce at a lower salary, with no benefits, and without the opportunity to join a union. Both the Ministry of Labor and Industrial Court of Kenya have sided with the workers, but the owners of Rising Sun have refused to comply with Kenyan and international labor law.



On the afternoon of Saturday, Nov. 4, student protesters visiting the JCPenney store placed informative leaflets in the pockets and sleeves of Jones garments and delivered a formal letter to the managers of the store, apprising them of the situation at Rising Sun. Protesters then formed a line and marched from one end of the King of Prussia Plaza to the other, chanting, distributing flyers, and waving two large banners (each of which read: "JCPENNEY, STOP PAYING IN PENNIES"). The protest drew attention, both positive and negative, from shoppers as well as from King of Prussia security guards. "It was definitely a shocking event," said junior Chris Curley, a participant in the protest. "It brought awareness to an issue that most shoppers aren't necessarily thinking about."

Another important event was an anti-oppression workshop. The purpose of anti-oppression work in USAS is to address concerns about racism, sexism, classism and heterosexism within the organization. It is also to provide a safe space for historically underrepresented groups to discuss issues of oppression they experience and how anti-oppression can be integrated into campus work.

Later in the day, a protest took place at JC Penney, a major purchaser of Jones apparel and garments made in the Rising Sun factory. Students delivered a letter to JC Penney managers about the illegal firings, blacklisting and sweatshop conditions at the Rising Sun factory. Approximately 30 students then marched through the King of Prussia mall chanting and handing out flyers before being forced to leave by security. Some students were banned from the mall by the police, but no one was arrested. The protest was followed by a kosher vegan dinner catered by New Harmony in Philadelphia.

On Sunday students had a media training workshop. They then worked on mapping out campaign strategies for the rest of the semester trying to increase regional solidarity and promote labor activism work in the public eye. Ursinus College was honored to host such a meaningful conference that both inspired and facilitated friendships with other activist students in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Wearing justice on our sleeves

DINA YARMUS

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Members of the Justice League, Ursinus College's coalition of social justice organizations, have supported the Designated Suppliers Program campaign initiated by members of We Care About the Nation (WeCAN).

Students presented a letter addressing their demands and concerns surrounding the conditions under which Ursinus College apparel is made to President Strassburger on Oct. 25. The letter expressed their interest in Ursinus College adopting the Designated Suppliers Program (DSP) as a concrete way of assuring that our collegiate apparel is sourced only from designated factories that respect workers rights and pay a living wage. The DSP is a program of the Worker's Rights Consortium (WRC), an independent monitoring organization that provides colleges and universities with information about the conditions in which their apparel is being made, so that colleges can in turn pressure their suppliers to improve working conditions in their factories.

The Justice League's main goal in signing on to the DSP and affiliating with the WRC is to establish an alternative model to a pattern which currently traps and forces humans into unhealthy and unlivable conditions. University students are aware of, and some Ursinus College students have seen firsthand, the structural violence, economic oppression and disregard for basic health and safety faced by workers in factories across the globe.

Implementing the DSP as an affiliate of the Worker's Rights Consortium is a necessary step toward securing the rights of workers worldwide. Students at over 30 other schools in the United States have already signed on to the DSP. Additionally, students in the Mid-Atlantic continue to demonstrate their respect for worker's rights by taking on these international solidarity campaigns and signing on to the DSP. Participant schools include University of Pennsylvania, Villanova University, Kutztown University, Franklin and Marshall College, Moravian College, Dickinson College, Lehigh University, Georgetown University, George Washington University, American University, Penn State University, Haverford College, and now, Ursinus College!

Adopting the DSP and affiliation with the WRC would help improve the lives of many factory workers, and it would also show the public that an Ursinus education seeks to impact global debates beyond the traditional classroom setting. Ursinus is a liberal arts school where the students are encouraged to look at the world, see what needs to be changed, and to take action. In addition, our school is not only an educational institution, but one that employs, produces, and consumes. With those additional roles come additional responsibilities to apply the principles of Ursinus beyond the classroom. Our mission speaks to the importance of making students responsible individuals and providing leadership in an interdependent world. By taking this initiative to ensure that our collegiate apparel is made in proper conditions, we are translating this mission from print to reality and living up to the ideals Ursinus has instilled in our campus community as a partner in the world.

For more information, check out www.workersrights.org or attend WeCAN meetings Mondays at 7 p.m. in Unity House!

Genital warts and HPV: the facts (part one)

LANE TAYLOR

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For those who were fortunate enough to have an adequate sex education program in high school, a wealth of information was provided regarding prevention techniques and disease details. Sometimes, a few diseases fall beneath the cracks which leaves the student with only basic information, leaving out important facts. In spite of an estimated 500,000 to one million cases developing per year (Planned Parenthood), to many people, genital warts remains an unexamined mystery, too often left behind by educators. As per tradition, I quested to examine the mystery in the hope that while genital warts will be something that you're thinking about, it is not something that you'll be forced to deal with due to a lack of information.

Genital warts are caused by a human papilloma virus (HPV), of which there are over 100 varieties. Of the 100, around 30 varieties are able to infect the genitals, some causing warts, some causing abnormal cell growth, and some causing no harm at all. HPV can afflict the penis, scrotum, rectum, anus, vulva, and vagina. HPV can be transmitted through oral, anal, and vaginal sex, and while using a condom can help prevent the spread, they are not as effective in preventing HPV in comparison with other STIs (Planned Parenthood).

The warts may appear in the vulva, vagina, cervix, anus, urethra, or penis, and appear soft, skin-toned, and

may occur in groups or clusters. Genital warts usually appear in multiple areas and may itch, but are rarely painful. In rare cases, genital warts may also appear on the mouth, palate, tongue, throat, and lips. If any of these symptoms occur, you should see a medical professional immediately, and stop any sexual contact in which you may be involved (Planned Parenthood).

After exposure to genital warts, it could take about three weeks to six months for symptoms to occur, and in some cases, the period of time may be even longer. Often, certain conditions can cause a more rapid growth due to a weakened immune system. Such conditions are: HIV, diabetes, pregnancy, Hodgkin's disease, chemotherapy, and post-organ transplant anti-rejection medications. Protecting your immune system is a good way to protect your body from HPV. Also, not smoking is a step in the right direction (for many reasons aside from this one) because smoking may put you at higher risk for genital warts and their reoccurrence (Planned Parenthood).

Treatment for genital warts may vary. A medical professional may prescribe a treatment that can be used at home or may recommend a more invasive technique. Certain chemicals such as podophyllin (which must be applied by a physician) or imiquimod (which can be applied at home) can be used to treat the warts. In some cases however, genital warts need to be removed by electrocauterization (burning) or cryotherapy (freezing). Laser surgery and injections may also be used as a form of

treatment. Without treatment, the warts may either disappear on their own or continue to grow and spread (Planned Parenthood).

There are three important but little-known facts that are integral in understanding genital warts. The first is that the HPV associated with genital warts does not cause cancer. The second is that only abstinence guarantees no infection (Planned Parenthood). And the third is that warts that occur on other parts of the body (finger, knee, foot, etc.), while contagious, cannot be transmitted to a partner in the form of genital warts (Teenwire.com).

Next week, I will continue with Part 2 of the HPV series with information about cervical cancer. Until then, please continue to send me your questions, comments, concerns, and ideas regarding this column. It is your health and safety that inspires me to write.

The Grad School Guru

CAREER SERVICES

www.ursinus.edu/career

Don Asher, nationally recognized speaker and author, will visit Ursinus on Tuesday, Nov. 14, at 7:30 p.m. in Pfahler Auditorium, to share insight on how to gain admission to highly competitive graduate schools and professional programs. Don Asher, also known as "America's Job Search and Grad School Guru," presents at over 100 colleges and universities annually. Students enjoy his interactive Q-and-A presentation style, which is sure to answer all your questions about graduate school admissions.

The program is great for seniors currently in the application process, but all class years are encouraged to attend. Asher will share useful advice on what you can be doing now to strengthen your applications to graduate and professional school. There is long-term preparation required if you want to be an outstanding candidate for admission. Some of the many tips Don Asher will share include:

- Get involved in research with a professor. If it goes well, you might present a paper at a conference or even get a journal article out of it. Research experience just may give you the edge you need.

- Take internships or gain employment in your field of interest. Doing so demonstrates commitment to your career goal and tells admissions counselors that your interest is genuine.

- Develop a well-rounded background and demonstrate your oral and written communication skills, no matter what field you are applying to.

- Get to know your professors. The more time you spend with them, the more they will be able to support you by writing thoughtful and meaningful letters of recommendation.

Spotlight: Psychology Club

ERIN PADOVANI

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Did you know that even if you are not a Psychology major, you are still welcome to join the Psychology Club? Even though the club's primary focus is psychology, the club is open to any student at Ursinus College. Dr. Kneia DaCosta, who began teaching at Ursinus in the fall of 2002, has advised the Psychology Club since 2003. (Dr. Jewell previously held the position.) Dr. DaCosta states that the Psychology Club's main purpose is to "enlighten the general public about psychology, and show that our everyday lives are affected by psychology." No wonder the club is open to all students!

The club organizes several events each semester. On Halloween night, the organization held the annual "Psychology of Fear" event. It was held in Wismer Lower Lounge from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The event incorporated an excellent balance of information and entertainment. For example, attendees had the opportunity to learn the essence of fear, what makes people afraid, and why we find fear so interesting. Handouts were distributed with definitions of phobias such as paraskavedekatriaphobia (the fear of Friday the 13), samhainophobia (the fear of Halloween), and the ever common arachnophobia (the fear of spiders). On the other hand, a visitor could also kick back in the comfy chairs and enjoy the scary movie that was being played on the screen. Other activities included crafts, listening to urban legends, and pumpkin painting. A colorful campus-wide e-mail was sent out to encourage students to join them for the "usual food, Halloween crafts, mask decorating, music, and fun!"

Perhaps the most popular event of the year that the

Psychology Club organizes is the "Stressival." A few years ago, an active member of the Psychology Club attained a Psychology and Art double major. The student thought of creative ways to combine knowledge about both of these subjects. As a result, the "Stressival" developed. The event usually takes place twice a year: once in December and once in May. It coincides with finals week, a time when most students could use some serious stress busters. Students can come to Wismer Lower Lounge, where several puppy dogs are there to play. Dr. DaCosta explains that the event's combination "brings expression to the field of psychology." Not only does the event give students a much-needed study break, but it lowers their blood pressure as well. (Is it any surprise that finals week raises your blood pressure?) Other activities at the Stressival include massages, stress balls, and the opportunity to create artwork. With finals quickly approaching, try to relax and go to the Stressival!

Though the club is open to the entire campus, joining the Psychology Club is a great opportunity for students with an educational interest in psychology. Kimberly Bean, a first-year member in the club and also the Historian, reports that there are GRE study sessions for Psychology majors who want to further their education after graduating at Ursinus College. She adds that, "the club is in the process of bringing some professionals in the psychological field to Ursinus to speak." The speakers could include professors, school psychologists, lawyers, and other psychological specialists.

In short, Kimberly declares that, "the Psychology Club is a great place to meet people with an interest in psychology and get involved with some fun, educational events on campus."

Retraction:

In last week's *Grizzly*, we placed a "thank you" to Yukiko Kawamura written by Akasya Bengé with the incorrect article. The "thank you" will appear with the correct article in coming weeks. We apologize for this error.

Guy Fawkes Day revisited

LANE TAYLOR

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This past Sunday, Nov. 5, marked the celebration of Guy Fawkes Day. Before the film "V for Vendetta," to the majority of Americans, Guy Fawkes Day was an unknown holiday that occasionally found itself at the brunt of jokes mocking its obscurity. Guy Fawkes Day holds no particular significance to us as Americans because it is a celebration of English pride, one that has lasted for over 400 years. However, "V for Vendetta" allowed Guy Fawkes Day to make a brief appearance into our popular culture under the guise of a film villain (arguably a hero, depending on your interpretation of the film) who granted us education in this English, time-honored, tradition. This article will outline the meaning and significance of Guy Fawkes Day, as well as an alternative interpretation of this celebration.

In 1604, Guy Fawkes and his fellow conspirators sought extreme action against the English government in an attempt to put a stop to British oppression upon Catholics. Legislation had been created that made punishment for practicing Catholicism more severe, which thoroughly upset Fawkes and British Catholics. Fawkes and his fellow conspirators constructed a plan to destroy Parliament (known as the Gunpowder Plot) the day that King James I was set to enter. The plot ultimately failed. News of the plot had leaked from within the group, and several group members dropped out after realizing that not only would they be unjustly murdering anti-Catholic Parliament members, but their supporters as well. Guy Fawkes was arrested in a cellar underneath Parliament in 1605, the day that plan would have come to fruition. Ironically, legislation oppressing Catholics actually increased after this incident, as the plot created by Fawkes and his co-conspirators only further enraged members of Parliament. Guy Fawkes was tried and executed for his crimes. (Infoplease.com)

Currently, it is English tradition to celebrate the failure and capture of Guy Fawkes on the day in which he was found and arrested. Many English communities celebrate this day by creating effigies of Guy Fawkes and setting them ablaze by throwing them into bonfires. Interestingly, effigies of the Pope are also often created and are thrown into the flames. English citizens also set off fireworks in celebration of this day, which has apparently become tradition around the world in former British Colonies (obviously excepting several, including ourselves). (Bonfire.org) In spite of the obvious boost to the British ego and morale this day has the potential to create, one may ponder the implications this

celebration has for the British Catholic community.

The pain involved with oppression is indescribable. Watching yourself, those around you, and your family emotionally and/or physically tormented is devastating, regardless of the form the oppression takes. So, although it appears that Guy Fawkes Day serves both as a reminder of British strength and pride, it also serves as a reminder of Catholic oppression. Though some claim the burning of effigies of the Pope and insulting references to the Pope in songs regarding Guy Fawkes Day (that are sung in celebration) are simply a tradition not meant to offend or hurt Catholics, one can question how avoiding such a hurt can be possible in light of these activities, even if no offense is meant. Having someone attack your faith is a very real pain that the majority of faiths and religions have encountered, and it appears that, even though incidentally, Guy Fawkes Day has the ability to inflict such pain.

The capture and conviction of a terrorist is certainly cause for celebration. Unfortunately, the celebration of Guy Fawkes Day has hurtful and disturbing elements to its celebration that one could suggest should evolve. Perhaps it is time to simply remember Fawkes's conviction, and to stop associating Catholicism with the horrible violence Fawkes attempted to cause. Protestant and Catholic relations in England, Scotland, and Ireland are strained even currently, and perhaps this could be a positive step in repairing their relationship. If this were to occur, Guy Fawkes Day could be associated not only with the conviction of a terrorist and British pride, but could acquire an entirely new, unique, and wonderful meaning: reconciliation.

"Triangle People": the work of Lynn Chadwick

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What surprises me the most about the Outdoor Sculpture Collection is that we walk past this artwork every day (whether while in front of the quad or while passing by Thomas), and yet give no consideration to where these masterpieces come from or what they mean. The artwork that stands out the most to both prospective and current students must be the "Triangle People," created by Lynn Chadwick, that are scattered all throughout campus. There are nine of Chadwick's statues on campus, which is more than any other artist featured in the collection. In fact, the brochure on the Outdoor Collection states, "The Berman Museum of Art holds the largest private collection of maquettes and large-scale sculptures by Chadwick in the United States."

What makes these sculptures so special is where they claim origin. After World War II, the world of art changed. Sculpting was no longer limited to carving marble or modeling wood; innovative artists began welding or assembling different materials into new forms of sculpture. Chadwick joined this revolution. He said, "I thought that the thing to do is to see what there was to be done in a different way."

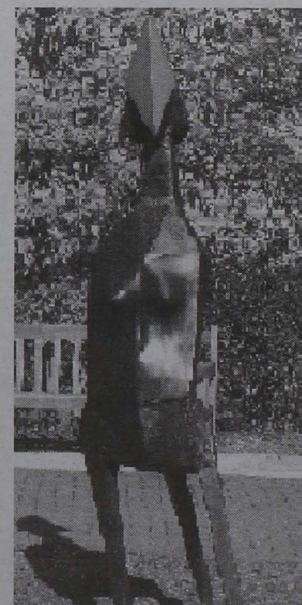
Surprisingly, Chadwick has no professional education in art; he is a completely-self taught artist. His method for creating his artwork comes mostly from his experience in construction and architecture. Chadwick worked as a draftsman for a few architectural firms in London before serving as a pilot in the Royal Navy's Fleet Air Arm. When World War II ended, Chadwick was able to pursue his career as an artist, transferring what he knew about structural design to his artwork.

Chadwick's skills as an architect can be seen in his statues on campus. His process of creating art is viewed more as construction than developing some lofty concept. He

begins by creating the "skeletons" of his figures out of welded iron. Layers of "skins" are applied to these skeletons, creating a solid figure shaped like a human.

Chadwick's so-called "people" are visibly different in sex. The male figures have significant block-shaped heads, while the female figures have triangular heads and prominent breasts and protruding bellies. Collette Chattopadhyay, a critic of Chadwick, says these figures "de-emphasize individuality, focusing instead on the shared commonalities of urban man and woman."

Chattopadhyay also believes these figures give a "reinterpretation of the human condition in the information age." Although her personal opinion may be shared by others, Chadwick will not have his viewers take any one literal interpretation of his work, nor will he give his own. He adamantly refuses to analyze or interpret his work. He explains, "It seems to me that art must be the manifestation of some vital force...when we philosophize upon this force, we lose sight of it...the intellectual, in his sincere desire to understand by reason, is leery of art which eludes all definitions."



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The significance of "kyke"

GABE HERMAN

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Kyke is a word that, when mentioned, polarizes society. Recent events at Ursinus have exposed the dichotomy of emotions that vary from discomfort to humor and from disregard to offense. Although there is knowledge that the word has been deemed politically incorrect and offensive, the disgusting events that have transpired over the last few weeks have shown more than a disregard for the word. Potentially more dangerous than ignorance is fact that too few people show an understanding and knowledge of the word "kyke" and its associated meaning in history.

However politically incorrect the word "kyke" may be, it is a word that society must be informed about and understanding of. Stepping away from the outrage many students feel following the supposed punishment of the "Facebook incident," it is education and enlightenment that are essential to the foundation of our school in order to preserve the sanctity and encourage the continued prosperity of our Ursinus community. Although justice is ideal, as we move forward as a school we can only strengthen our society through the understanding of others and their differences.

One cannot grasp the connotation of the word "kyke" without understanding its origin. Kyke can most accurately be traced back to Ellis Island and the influx of Jewish immigrants who came to our country in search of political and religious freedom around the end of the 19th century. As it was common amongst immigrants to be unfamiliar with English, it was common practice for immigrants unable to sign their name to mark an X or a cross. Jewish immigrants happened to be superstitious of the

cross and its semblance to a crucifix and predominantly chose to draw a circle instead. Many of the Jewish immigrants spoke a language called Yiddish that contained the word for circle, kikel, which was later modified into kyke for slang by those working at Ellis Island.

For individuals of Jewish decent, no other term carries the same hatred and degradation that kyke has maliciously been molded into. The word is associated with all the tribulations the Jewish people have experienced, including generations of enslavement, religious persecution, and multiple genocides. It is comparable to the most heinous words and is solely used for the degradation of others.

It must be understood that the use of the word "kyke," in anything but serious conversation, is passive acceptance of all the horrible things that the Jewish culture has gone through. Avoiding comparisons to history and using "kyke" in jest is modern approval for genocide and enslavement.

Words deemed to be politically incorrect should not lead to disregard due to uncertainty; rather, we should feel it as our duty to learn as much about the words' meaning, history, and current connotation. What has recently happened at Ursinus should be confronted and used as an opportunity for our school to grow and become a better, more accepting place. I urge my fellow Jewish students, and, more importantly, the entire campus, to not pass up the opportunity to educate those who either do not know or do not understand where hatred manifests itself. It is disturbing that people can come to find humor in words that teach hatred. Do not let this event go over as a sore spot, but rather an event by which we can confront hatred together.

An open letter to Ursinus

Can we be honest with each other for a minute? No, don't worry, I just want to talk. Will you have a seat? Would you like some tonic water? I don't want to serve anything too hard on the stomach.

Ursy, you and I both know some serious shit has happened around here the last few weeks. I know you've always hated the beer that gets spilled every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday on your carpets and the headache-inducing dance music, and I know Reimert is like the cyst you'd cut off if you didn't need it to survive, but I'm talking about something else, something more important. I see you nodding reluctantly. Don't feel guilty: you're an old girl, and sometimes these things come out.

See, Ursy, it's okay

that you have problems. Everybody has problems. I know a part of you feels like you've failed the last couple of weeks, between racist markings and property destruction, tears shed and lawsuits threatened – that you're an educational institution, and that you must have done something wrong for your people to be so ignorant – but don't blame yourself. You just have to understand us humans a little better.



CHRIS CURLEY
Modern Times

You see, human beings abhor change. We don't like it; we don't understand it. It's different, and we don't usually like things that are different. At least, not right off the bat. Opening people's minds takes more than an assimilation of facts and knowledge, and sometimes, honestly, it seems like you aren't ever going to change people's minds. People are opinionated – you know how the old saying goes – and I know it hurts when they say "I don't understand" like it's a criticism – but you've been around over a hundred years; you know understanding takes time. Not everyone is as lucky as you, Ursy, and as hard as this is to believe some people would rather revel in their ignorance than admit they could be wrong. This isn't just your problem, it's a problem everywhere.

Because I know you're trying to change. I believe you when you say that. Look at some of your kids: they're making fliers and standing up for workers here and abroad, they're fighting for exposure and diversity, they're raising money for charities. We just need to get everybody else on board. I know most of your kids would rather stay in your heated rooms (maybe you could turn that down a little?) with their beds and their televisions and their schoolwork, but I think with a little effort you could give them a push. I think there are a lot of good people here. They just need to get out that front door.

So what do you say, Ursy? You and me both? Let's get the lazy people, the tired, the oppressed, and the oppressors. Let's take those rotten pieces of you lying around everywhere, gather 'em up, and make you whole again.

For information on activism on campus and abroad, diversity groups, charity activities, and general interest, drop me a line at chcurley@ursinus.edu, and we'll talk. Solidarity, people.

A 2008 preview (part 2)

MATT FLYNTZ

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Let's talk about Republicans, baby. Let's talk about you and me.

I'm sorry. That's enough. As promised, a look at the electoral prospects for the Grand Old Party in 2008.

First, the man everyone is talking about: Senator John McCain. McCain has established a large bipartisan base. Indeed, many Democrats have been heard to say "I'd vote for him." McCain's biggest problem will be proving to the conservative base (i.e. those Republicans most likely to get out and vote on Primary Election day) that he won't let them down. If he can convince Republicans to nominate him, I have little doubt that he can beat any candidate the Democrats can muster.

Another widely talked about potential candidate is ex-New York City Mayor, Rudy Giuliani. I, however, think that he would make a terrible candidate. The only reason he found himself in the national spotlight is that he happened to be Mayor of New York City on September 11th. We have seen that "Nine-eleven" rhetoric is losing its potency, thus it would not be too outlandish to assume that Americans will not view him as "America's Mayor" come November 4, 2008. Without the majesty of being "America's Mayor" to prop him up, Americans will see that he is a rather unsubstantial candidate.

A third name that is constantly in the fray is Massachusetts Governor, Mitt Romney. I think Romney would make a pretty compelling candidate. He has decent con-

servative credentials, but at the same time, he has proven that he can amass votes in the bluest of the blue states. This sort of moderate-conservative figure is just what the Republicans should be looking for. I think Romney would make the second best choice, after McCain.

Last, we have Newt Gingrich. He is somewhat of a surprise; we have not heard too much from him since the infamous Clinton/Lewinsky days, and that can work against him. Nobody knows much about Gingrich except that he was Speaker when the scandal broke and that he was at the forefront of pursuing it. Clearly, this is not the kind of "legacy" any politician wants to leave behind. If he can define himself as more than "that guy who wanted to impeach Clinton," he might stand a chance, but that task might be more difficult than it sounds.

I think that the Republicans will stay away from "uber-conservative" candidates in 2008. It seems as if the country is moderating, and judging by Bush's low approval ratings, I think people want someone closer to the ideological mainstream. Thus, I don't think potential candidates like Bill Frist or Sam Brownback stand much of a chance.

Have an opinion? Please send your questions, comments, compliments, and complaints to the Opinions Editor at maflyntz@ursinus.edu

"Boondock Saints" (2006)

I'm really surprised it took me this long to review this movie for a number of reasons. First off, it's flat-out awesome. Mind-blowingly, ridiculously kick-ass awesome. Also, it's the only film I can think off that combines a subtle look at the ethics of vigilantism with enough uses of the word "f*ck" to give "Scarface" a run for its money. Thus, I give you "The Boondock Saints."

The fraternal twins MacManus, Connor (Sean Patrick Flanery) and Murphy (Norman Reedus) begin to take out the scum of Boston with the help of their less-than-bright friend Rocco (David Della Rocco), killing hitmen, mafiosos, pimps, and hoods. Meanwhile, the brothers are being pursued by a conflicted FBI agent (Willem Dafoe) and a mysterious hired gun known only as "Il Duce" (Billy Connolly).

This film is absolutely the definition of a cult flick. Everyone I talked to while writing this review told me stories of a friend recommending it or forcing them to watch it. And in the end, it is absolutely worth it. The film's relatively meager budget has the amazing ability to encompass John Woo-esque shootouts and action sequences, while at the same time bringing a cast of characters that endear themselves and their mission to you like none other.

The acting in this film is phenomenal, be it from the hapless Rocco or the insanely ruthless and unstoppable Il Duce. However, throughout the flick, Willem Dafoe steals every scene he is in. In the hands of a lesser actor, his role as the conflicted FBI agent who takes a perverse joy in running circles around the Boston police department could have delved into the realm of campy. Dafoe manages to not only chew the scenery, but also to make his character's homosexuality a non-issue in a way that is rarely done in Hollywood. His Agent Smecker kicks ass and takes names while commanding the respect of all around him.

One of the keys to this film that must be touched on is the way that it blends humor seamlessly into what is otherwise a dark film, mainly through the character of Rocco. Troy Duffy, the writer and director, wrote and cast the part for his friend David Della Rocco, and whether he is accidentally blowing away his girlfriend's cat, feeling up an unconscious stripper, or attempting to intimidate a priest in a confessional, Rocco manages to bring the laughter to the film.

For years, plans for a sequel entitled "The Boondock Saints 2: All Saints Day" had been announced on IMDB, but were recently taken down amidst rumors that writer/director Troy Duffy drank away his success in Hollywood, burning one too many bridges along the way. Thus we are left only with this gem, which in my opinion is an absolute shame. Who knows what Duffy could have accomplished with some more money and a film under his belt? If anyone out there is reading this and hasn't seen this movie, get up and knock on your next door neighbor's door. Chances are they have it and would be more than willing to share this awesome experience.

Alex Ernst is trying to learn the MacManus family prayer as soon as possible. You can reach him at alernst@ursinus.edu.

Point/Counterpoint: gay marriage: who should decide?

A job for the legislatures

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One aspect of the New Jersey Supreme Court ruling that gay and lesbian couples must be afforded the full benefits of marriage that has gone relatively ignored is just how the decision came about and the governmental body responsible for it. The New Jersey decision raises questions about the entire lawmaking process, regardless of whether the proposed law concerns same-sex marriage, taxes, criminal law, or anything else to be decided on. With this in mind, when it comes down to it, should it not be the legislature, comprised of elected officials, who enact the laws of the land?

I myself neither claim nor pretend to be anything near an expert on federal or state-wide government and the exact nuances of how each branch works, but I do have a basic idea of, say, how a case in the Supreme Court is decided, or how a law is enacted in Congress. I also know that every other November, the public votes on Congressional races, electing members of Congress and putting them in the position to either support or reject the bills that are presented to them. Since we supposedly live in a democracy, it would seem logical that it would be Mr. and Mrs. Common Citizen who decide which laws should govern their daily lives. Obviously, it would be rather impossible for Mr. and Mrs. Common Citizen to vote on every single idea for a new law, so it seems logical that the next-best solution is to elect a certain member of Congress that has the values of the citizens of his or her state or region in mind, becoming in a way a surrogate voter for all of those people. With this in mind, it should be here, rather than the Supreme Court, where a law such as one pertaining to same-sex marriage should ultimately be put into action, since ideally this legislature represents the will of the people.

I use the word ideally because this is, of course, an ideal or perfect situation, and of course, nothing in this world is perfect. Congress as it is currently constituted is a perfect example. Every filibuster, deadlocked vote, and quibble among the Democrats and Republicans is a perfect reminder that Congress is anything but an idyllic lawmaking body. With the issue of same-sex marriage in particular, the debate over a proposed amendment defining marriage as a union solely between a man and a woman (which I personally find ridiculous and unnecessary, but that's another point entirely) has gone on endlessly and with no end in sight. Perhaps this is a further sign that Congress is merely a collection of almost child-like arguments, but in the end, doesn't this, in fact, reflect the population as a whole, political disagreements and all?

I understand the importance of the Supreme Court in interpreting the constitutionality of the law, but I think that the legislature, as flawed as it may be, should in fact have the power to decide on, say, the same-sex marriage question. Yes, the debate within Congress would be endless, but that same debate is just as endless among each and every common citizen. Maybe this legislature actually represents a part of the will of the population after all.

Courts rule!

LANE TAYLOR

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In recent weeks, a decision made by the New Jersey State Supreme Court has sparked much controversy. The court, which ruled in the case *Lewis vs. Harris* that homosexual couples constitutionally have the same rights as heterosexual couples, has ordered the New Jersey legislature to amend its marriage laws by April of 2007 to include homosexual couples (Wikipedia.org). However, the court has decided that it would be more appropriate for the legislators to re-work existing marriage laws to include either homosexual marriage or their "separate but equal" counterpart, same-sex unions. I would charge that while the court's decision regarding the legalization of same-sex marriage in *Lewis vs. Harris* was both appropriate and necessary, generally speaking, the courts should make the legislative decisions about marriage law, not the legislature.

Opponents of this opinion may argue that the legislature exists to create and change laws. However, the judicial branch exists to engage in a system of checks and balances with our legislative and executive branches to maintain the constitutionality of the laws the legislators choose to pass, meaning that while our legislators create laws, it is the job of the judicial branch to monitor and change laws if they deem it appropriate. For example, in this case, the Supreme Court found that marriage laws excluding homosexual couples in the state of New Jersey are unconstitutional, and thus must be changed. I would argue that because it was the sharp minds and eyes of the court and not of the legislature that caught the unconstitutionality of this law, they should be the ones to change it so that it becomes more constitutionally appropriate. This lack of constitutional aptitude is in itself another argument for judicial and not legislative decision.

Legislators, in spite of the fact that they may or may not have a law degree, have a fairly poor record in determining the constitutionality of laws. This could be occurring for several reasons, one of which being that they did not attend law school and thus are not capable of determining constitutionality, another being that they recognize the unconstitutionality of the law, but choose to ignore it for personal or political reasons. In my opinion, both of these possibilities are horrifying. However, that does not change the fact that this is a legitimate problem in our current legislatures. Because of this flaw, individuals challenge these laws with their attorneys because they sense an injustice, which, if accurate, is then remedied by the courts.

Aside from the fact that many (including myself) shudder at the thought of a Ted Stevens or a Rick Santorum deciding what's most constitutionally appropriate, there is political precedent to the Supreme Court making the final decision regarding marriage law. When the legality of interracial marriage was challenged before the United States Supreme Court in *Loving v. Virginia*, the justices delivered a decision that found laws prohibiting interracial marriage to be unconstitutional, thus ordering such laws to be changed. While in *Lewis vs. Harris*, the New Jersey Supreme Court also ordered for the laws to be changed, they left it up to the legislature to decide on whether or to legalize same-sex marriage or same-sex unions. If the people who determine the unconstitutionality of a law or laws are not the ones to make the necessary changes, how can we be assured that the new law or laws will be constitutional?

Bears beat rival LaSalle, take home second title

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For many reasons, the events that unfolded the weekend of November 4-5 tell the ultimate Cinderella story. The Division Final game won by the Ursinus Women's Rugby Club earned them the title of Division Champions, and came as a great surprise to many players and fans alike. The excitement of the win was due to many factors, not the least being that the game was played on Ursinus' own field. Along with the Ursinus Men's Rugby Club, the Women's Club had the honor of co-hosting the Eastern Pennsylvania Rugby Union (EPRU) Championships for all divisions in the Union. The tournament brought players from all over, including Princeton, West Chester and University of Delaware.

With a 2005 Division III Championship in their pocket, the UC ladies had high expectations at the start of the fall season. But two losses to TCNJ and Kutztown led to a disappointing start for the squad. The team continued to struggle through player injuries and roster changes and managed to end the regular season with a record of 3-3. On November 4, the Bears found themselves facing the Gettysburg women in the semi-finals. The game began well, with UC scoring 25 points in the first half. But after half-time, exhaustion caught up with the Ursinus players and Gettysburg managed to answer the Bears with 22 points. Second row sophomore player Elysia Price said, "It was a nerve-racking experience; it was tough watching Gettysburg slip past our defense." A final UC try ended

the game at 30-22. Although it was a win for the Bears that advanced them to the Championship game, in many ways it was also a wake-up call. Sophomore Wing Theresa Lechner explained, "We won the game, and I think we deserved it, but I think it also taught us that improving in certain aspects of the game was crucial before the next game."

Early the next morning the Bears returned to the pitch to face league rival LaSalle to fight for the Division III Championship. The UC women were well aware of how much was riding on the game; not only were they defending their title, but the Bears had developed a rivalry with LaSalle. Earlier in the season UC faced them in a match that brought out unchecked aggression and emotion on both sides of the pitch. The game ended in a disappointing loss for the UC team, and facing the Explorers again remained a daunting task. "At the least I expected it to be a really difficult match, as we were going into the game as the underdogs,"

said junior inside center Nina Graham.

The intensity of the rivalry got the game off to a quick start. An early try by junior Jamie Malarchik put the Bears on the scoreboard with 5, and a second try by senior Sarah Marshall gave the bears a solid



lead with 10-0. But each score brought about more determination in the opposing team, and the LaSalle players constantly drove the ball toward the try-line. A few diving smother tackles by Kari Sears and Candice Esparra kept the Explorers from scoring in the first half. Half-time gave the players a chance to catch their breath, and returned with a renewed enthusiasm. LaSalle fought for the ball at every chance, with hard-

hitting scrums and fast penalty plays. The play got desperate at times, and one LaSalle player was sent off of the field for an errant tackle on outside center Lisa Rake. But the exceptional defense of both the UC backs and forwards prevented the Explorers from entering the try-zone. The final minutes of the game kept the players and fans on their

toes. The LaSalle players were relentless, executing high-energy plays until the very last seconds of the game.

With the final referee whistle came a second Championship for the Ursinus Women's Rugby Club. The UC women erupted in shouts and chants of joy mixed with sighs of relief. The successful defense of the Championship title held great meaning for the team. As junior Tarah Pearson explains, "This weekend we have proven to ourselves and the EPRU that we are serious and deserve respect." The final victory proved that the hard work and effort of the captains Sam Erle and Jamie Malarchik and coach Chris Walsh were worthwhile. The game marked the pinnacle of the 2006 fall rugby season for the Bears and the rugby careers of many of the players. Although this Championship was not the first for the Bears, it "was more magical this time around," as Caitlin Hanlon states. "It was by far the most intense game of the season; it was the game where we played most like a team." For seniors Samantha Erle, Kari Sears, Dana Roach, Kristen Brown, Caitlin Hanlon, Blair Reddish, Sarah Marshall, Robin Pierce, and Caitlin O'Connor, the win came as a bittersweet event that designated the end of their regular season rugby play at Ursinus. What the team hopes to gain from a second Championship win is recognition for their dedication and support for future rugby seasons. The Ursinus Women's Rugby Club would like to thank all of their dedicated friends and family that supported them throughout the season!

Explosive offense shoots Bears past Diplomats

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With a win over Johns Hopkins last weekend, the Ursinus Bears football team guaranteed themselves a winning season for the first time since 2001. This past Saturday, the Bears might very well have staked their claim as one of the best football teams this college has ever seen as the Bears dominated every facet of the game and handed F&M an embarrassing 42-10 loss on their home field. It was the Bears' offense that grabbed the momentum for Ursinus in this game as the defense faltered out of the gates before settling down the rest of the game.

After the Diplomats scored on the opening drive to give themselves an early 7-0 lead, they were able to recover the ensuing kickoff and put themselves into another scoring situation. Two plays later, however, Ryan VanWright picked off an F&M pass, giving the Bears the ball and its first scoring opportunity of the game. On his third carry of the game, Aaron Harper scurried 47 yards for his first of three touchdowns on the day knotting the game up at 7-7.

After a Diplomats field goal on their next possession, the Bears' offense went right back to work on the ground as they

continued to feed Harper the football until they used a little trickery to catch F&M off guard. Harper received a toss from quarterback Ted Wallingford then pulled up and fired a pass to senior Josh Hannum 34 yards down field for Ursinus' second touchdown of the game, giving the Bears the lead for good at 14-10. From there on out the Bears dominated F&M on almost every down played.

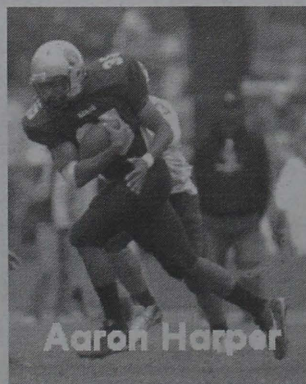
After another interception by VanWright, the Bears capitalized on the great field possession by scoring on their third straight possession thanks to a 14 yard touchdown pass from Wallingford to

Hannum giving the Bears a commanding 21-10 lead. The Bears' offense kept the engine running on all cylinders on its next possession as Harper took another handoff 69 yards for his second touchdown on the ground and third overall for the game, giving Ursinus a comfortable 28-10 lead while putting together its greatest offensive performance of the season.

The Bears ended the first half in style as they moved the ball 97 yards in under two minutes to finish the onslaught that was the first half with a seven yard touchdown pass from

Wallingford to Hannum. It was by far the most impressive drive the Bears put together all season and the touchdown gave the Bears a 35-10 lead heading into the locker rooms, but the Bears weren't done yet.

Ursinus continued its offensive assault



as Wallingford was able to throw for his third touchdown of the game, this time a 43 yard completion to junior Brandon Evans, to put the nail in the coffin and give the Bears their biggest lead at 42-10. From there on out it was a game of ball control and clock management as the Bears walked out of Lancaster with the victory, a 7-2 overall record and still hopes for a post-season berth.

In the victory, Wallingford went 8-12 for 170 yards and 3 touchdowns, Hannum caught 4 passes for 3 touchdowns and Aaron Harper, who was selected Centennial Conference Player of the Week for the second time this season, finished with 253 all-purpose yards and three touchdowns on the day. Senior linebacker Stephen Ordog led the Bears' defense, who played another stellar game, with 7 tackles.

The Bears return to action this Saturday for Senior Day against Dickinson. A win could give the Bears a post-season berth, so come down to Patterson Field this Saturday at 1 p.m. to see the excitement.